

ticed in this Journal, has stated the results of his observations in the Medical Gazette for June 7th, 1832. Following the directions of Dr. Latta, he injected from 70 to 150 ozs. within a few hours—and all his patients died, viz. six in number. In all of these temporary benefit was produced; ‘but in several the fatal result seemed accelerated.’ In one case he then tried the addition of albumen to the saline injection—in another the serum of bullock’s blood—in a third, human serum—in a fourth, human blood—in two cases, small quantities of whiskey—in two, a few drops of laudanum—still *all* died. Dr. L. then began to suspect that the quantities injected were too large, and they were limited to 30 ounces at a time, thrown in very slowly, and carefully watching the effects. Under these precautions, four have recovered; ‘but so many have died in despite of all precautions, so evidently injured by the practice, that I have now almost entirely laid it aside, as not only useless, but frequently hazardous.’ Dr. L. injected 26 cases, 22 of which died! Dr. L. witnessed the phenomenon to which we have alluded—the drain of fluids from the bowels as fast as the injections were thrown into the veins. One patient made this remark—‘as fast as you put water in my veins, it runs out by my stomach.’”—*Med. Chirur. Rev. Oct. 1833.*

42. *Influence of Putrid Exhalations upon Cholera.*—M. DOUBLE has made a report to the Royal Academy of Medicine on this interesting subject. When the cholera appeared at Blois, a physician of that town saw with fear that the workmen had unpaved the streets for the purpose of cleansing them; he feared that the removed earth might give rise to fatal or choleric exhalations, an observation which he thought had already been made at Paris. In consequence of which he wrote to the prefect, and the latter transmitted his letters to the minister, who sent them to the Academy to decide the question. Numerous researches were necessary to arrive at this solution: M. Double devoted himself with the greatest care to this subject; he described all the work of this kind which had been done in Paris since the origin and during the existence of the cholera; he has followed them from street to street in the different sections of the city; he has given all their dimensions; he has pointed out the nature of the several strata of earth which have been dug out, and after the removal of the earth, he has shown that the inhabitants of the streets where the excavations were made, as well as the workmen employed, have been without comparison more healthy than all the others. He supports this remark, both by the recent experience of M. Parent-Duchatelet, and by the observation made at Montfaucon, where persons are occupied in the most unhealthy work, and where notwithstanding very few of the workmen are effected. From these facts M. Double concludes that the exhalations which escape from animal matters are not near so dangerous as have heretofore been supposed, and that, even during an epidemic, the removal of earth which increases these exhalations can be made without danger; but that this however, should not restrain the administration, when peculiar circumstances should force it to defer enterprises of this nature. After an animated discussion, the Academy decided that the conclusion of this report should not be expressed in terms decidedly affirmative. However, the final drawing up of the report was entrusted to M. Double, and the report and his conclusions were put to the vote and were adopted.—*Archives Générales, September, 1832.*

CHEMISTRY.

43. *Aricine, Quinine, Cinchonine.*—Aricine was obtained by Pelletier and Coriol from a variety of Peruvian bark. Pelletier infers from a comparison of his analysis of aricine, with the analysis of quinine and cinchonine by Liebig, that the three may be represented by three grades of oxidation of a peculiar

base, composed of 20 carbon, 24 hydrogen, and 2 nitrogen. Cinchonine consisting of this base with 1 atom of oxygen, quinine of the same base, with 2 atoms of oxygen, and aricine containing 3 atoms of oxygen.—*Ann. de Chim. et Phys.* Oct. 1832.

44. *Chemical Analysis of Ergot*.—In 103 parts of Ergot, Mr. WIGGERS, of Berlin, has found—

White oily matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.0006
Solid fatty matter, crystallizable, and of peculiar nature	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0456
Cerine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7578
Fungous matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.0862
Ergotine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2466
Vegetable ozmazome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.7645
Sugar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5530
Gummy extract, with red colouring principle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3250
Vegetable albumen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4800
Acid phosphate of potash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4221
Phosphate of lime, and traces of iron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2822
Silica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1394

102.0930

There are some remarkable points in the preceding analysis. In the first place, the presence of vegetable ozmazome identifies the ergot with the class of mushrooms in which this substance forms a considerable proportion. In this ozmazome seems to reside the power which promotes parturition. The ergotine is insoluble in water, and seems, from the experiments of M. Wiggers, to be the principle in which the poisonous qualities of the ergot reside. On several animals it has operated as a powerful irritant poison, while the ozmazome produced no such effect.—*Lancet*, from *Alleg. Med. Zeit.* 10 Nov. 1832.

45. *Phosphuretted Hydrogen*.—Rose proves that the gas obtained by heating hypo-phosphorous, or phosphorous acid, and the hypo-phosphates, and which is spontaneously inflammable in the air, is a base. It ranks them with ammonia, as being a basic compound of hydrogen with a simple substance.—*Ann. de Chim. et Phys.* Sept. 1832.

46. *On certain Phenomena produced by Capillary Action*.—This is the title of an interesting paper by Dr. S. MAGNUS, published some years since in *Poggendorf's Annals*, and now translated for the *Annales de Chim. &c.* It contains a number of experiments on endosmose and exosmose of gases and of liquids, which in the author's view, result from capillary action. The first is an examination of the unequal penetration of gases through cracks in glass receivers, first noticed by Döbereiner. The results obtained are explained on Dalton's hypothesis, that one gas is a vacuum to another: an explanation inadmissible since the proof of the great power with which the permeation is effected, which is given by Dr. Mitchell's* experiments.

The corresponding phenomena of liquids begins with the infiltration of nitrate of copper into a tube, closed at the bottom by a bladder, containing pure water, and plunged into a solution of the metallic salt. This observation was made by Fischer,† of Breslau. In the course of the article an interesting experiment of Parrott is given, in which when a glass bottle was filled with alcohol, and the mouth closed by a bladder, and the whole surrounded by water, the water filtered into the bottle so as to inflate the bladder. Dr. Magnus concludes, that all these experiments can be explained by capillary action, if different liquids are supposed to have different attractions for each other, and have different powers of passing through capillary openings.—*Ibid.* Oct. 1832.

* Am. Journ. Med. Sc. Vol. VII.

† Gilbert's Annals, Vol. 72.